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In an address to a confidential conference of agricultural workers, Rudolf Slansky, Secretary General of the Communist Party in Czechoslovakia, disclosed that only about 20 percent of the farmers are organized with the Communist Party and of these only a very small percentage are reliable according to party standards. The reatest resistance to the collectivization of farms is found to be among the small farmers and much difficulty is being met with those farmers who joined the party in 1945. A major effort is being made to recruit new members, especially from among the small farmers, for the Union of Czech Farmers (Jedotny swaz ceskych zemedelcu - JSCZ), but so far with little success. In Jindrichuv Hradec (050/R28), for instance, membership in the JSCZ is as follows:

Hembers of the JSCZ Size of farmers' holdings in hectares 3% 8% 2-5 15% 5-10 10-20 27% Over 20 33%

2. Recently, when 620 farmers with farms of over 20 hectares applied for membership in the JSCZ, only 220 were accepted. The less land a farmer owns the more acceptable he is for membership. The small farmers, most of whom get their main source of income from non-farming occupations, claim that the Communist Party and the trade union to which they belong can defend their interests sufficiently well and that there is no need for them to join another organization. Farmers with holdings of from 2 to 20 hectares complain that the JSCZ deprives them of the property which their families have owned for generations. Farmers with larger holdings see the JSCZ as a direct agent of the Communist regime. In at least one-third of the villages of Moravia and Bohemia there is no possibility of organizing local units of the JSCZ because of the total lack of interest on the part of the farmers and because of their refusal to take any part in the organization. Although the JSCZ has large funds at its disposal, most farmers consider that it is primarily an organisation for collecting membership dues and has little power to help them. The secretaries and instructors of the JCZ claim that their failure to recruit larger numbers of farmers is due to foreign interference. The salaries of

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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the secretaries and other employees of the JSCZ have recently been doubled. Remunerations are being offered to them for setting new members and for setting up card files on the present members of the JSCZ.

- There has also been a great deal of resistance to the creation of United Agricultural Co-operatives (Jedotne zemedelske druzstvo - JZD). In most of the villages where the JZD has been organized, farmers joined in order to receive loans for mechanization, or for larger grain rations for cattle feed or in order to get electrification for the village or to prevent loss of the tractors and machines owned by the farmers. In 95 percent of the cases all interest in the JZD disappears as soon as discussions are begun on the elimination of field boundaries. The JZD is organized into three progressively more collectivized types of co-operative. In the first stage, farmers continue to own their own land but co-operate in working all the fields of the JZD; in the second stage, field boundaries are ploughed under and the farmers are rewarded in accordance with the amount of land which they have contributed; in the third stage, farmers are rewarded according to the amount of time they work without regard to the size of the farm which they have contributed to the JZD. In Helnicke Vtelno (051/F91) where the third stage of the JZD was initiated, the farmers were paid 18 kcs. per hour in 1949. In April 1950, because of low output by the farmers, the JZD was able to pay only 3.5 kcs. per hour. Members of the JZD are very dissatisfied and are attempting in many cases to return to farming their own land.
- 4. One group which is resisting creation of JZD units is the factory worker who lives in farm areas. Before the creation of the JZD, these "iron works farmers" who owned very small farms could work for neighboring farmers during the summer in return for grain which enabled them to keep a pig or other food animal for themselves. They were also able to rent from the farmer horses and farm equipment at a lower rate than is charged by the state machine stations and they did not have to contribute any of the profits of their labor. This voluntary co-operation is no longer possible since the local farms are organized in the JZD.
- 5. The forced sale of farm machinery by the farmers to the government has been largely completed and the machines have been taken in exchange for certificates which have since proved valueless. Many farmers, especially those with large holdings, have been forced to apply to the state machine stations (Statni strojni stanice SSS) for the use of machinery to farm their land. It is reported that the machinery thus taken from the farmers is being given to the most active of the JZDs or is being sent to the USSR and even to China. At the end of April 1950 the last of the farm laborers were taken from the employ of private farmers and transferred to the state estates, thus completing an action which was started last year. It is reported that the state machine stations lost nearly four billion kcs. in 1949 and that the state estates lost about six billion kcs. in the same period.
- 6. In March 1950 all cows belonging to individual farmers, to the state estates and to the JZD were divided into three groups: Group I will gradually be given to the state estates, Group II will go to the best JZD units, and Group III will be left for the individual farmers. It is believed that the poorer grades of cattle owned now by the state estates and the JZD will be placed in Group III and replaced by better grades. Beef and pork cattle are more plentiful in 1950 than in recent years and, as a result, beef and pork have been derationed. Beef will cost 50 to 60 kcs. per kg unrationed.

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